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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 09/881,325 | 06/14/2001 | Frank J. DeGilio | POU920010067US1/132-0001 | 7141 |
| 7590 02/08/2006 Philmore H. Colburn II Cantor Colburn LLP 55 Griffin Road South Bloomfield, CT 06002 | | | EXAMINER ENGLAND, DAVID E | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2143 | PAPER NUMBER |
| DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/881,325 | DEGILIO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | David E. England | 2143 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 21 – 36 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 21 – 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. The term " time consuming " in claims 21 and 29 are relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term " time consuming " is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

5. Applicant is asked to specifically recite from the specification what would it is meant to be "time consuming" or what would be the limit or threshold for one of ordinary skill in the art to interpret the limitation as "time consuming".

6. Claims 22 – 28 and 30 – 36 are rejected for their separate dependency on claims 21 and 29 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 21, 22, 24 – 30 and 32 – 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Servan-Schreiber et al. (6892354) (hereinafter Servan) in view of Horn (6192414).

9. As per claim 21, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Servan teaches a method for monitoring the presence of a web client from a server via a communications network, comprising;

10. conducting searches for data in response to receiving requests for information from web clients, (e.g., col. 1, line 47 – col. 2, line 10 & col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 43);

11. if one of the search becomes time consuming, determining a continued presence of the web client associated with the time-consuming search, (e.g., col. 4, lines 24 – 60);

12. waiting a specified time period, (e.g., col. 4, lines 24 – 60); and

13. data resulting from the search becomes available after a predetermined time, (e.g., col. 1, line 47 – col. 2, line 10 & col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 43), but does not specifically teach upon sensing that one of the connections will be time consuming, determining a continued presence of the web client associated with the time-consuming search, the determining comprising:

Art Unit: 2143

14. transmitting a byte stream to the web client;
15. waiting a specified time period;
16. if an error response is returned from the web client indicating the web client is no longer present, aborting the search; and
17. if an error response is not returned from the web client, continuing the search and repeating the transmitting and waiting until an occurrence of at least one of:
 18. an error response is returned from the web client indicating the web client is no longer present; and
 19. data resulting from the connection becomes available.
20. Horn teaches a method for monitoring the presence of a web client from a server via a communications network, comprising;
21. upon sensing that one of the connections will be time consuming, determining a continued presence of the web client associated with the time-consuming search, the determining comprising:
 22. transmitting a byte stream to the web client, (e.g., col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 34);
 23. waiting a specified time period, (e.g., col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 34);
 24. if an error response is returned from the web client indicating the web client is no longer present, aborting the search, (e.g., col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 34); and
 25. if an error response is not returned from the web client, continuing the search and repeating the transmitting and waiting until an occurrence of at least one of:
 26. an error response is returned from the web client indicating the web client is no longer present, (e.g., col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 34); and

27. data resulting from the connection becomes available, (e.g., col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 34). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Horn with Servan because testing to see if a user is no longer using a connection will give the system the ability to free up resources so they may be used elsewhere.

28. As per claim 22, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Servan teaches transmitting data resulting from the search to the web client in response to the occurrence of data resulting from the search becoming available, (e.g., col. 1, line 47 – col. 2, line 10 & col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 43).

29. As per claim 24, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Servan teaches the byte stream is an advertisement, (e.g., col. 1, line 47 – col. 2, line 10 & col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 43).

30. As per claim 25, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Servan teaches the specified wait time is a tunable parameter, (e.g., col. 4, lines 24 – 60).

31. As per claim 26, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Servan teaches the data to be searched is returned in a web page format, (e.g., col. 2, line 49 – col. 3, line 21).

32. As per claim 27, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Servan teaches returning a static web page to the web client in response to receiving the request for information from the web client, (e.g., col. 2, line 49 – col. 3, line 21).

33. As per claim 28, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Servan teaches the static web page is returned to a second browser window opened by the web client, the second browser window opened by the web client subsequent to the request, (e.g., col. 2, line 49 – col. 3, line 21).

34. Claims 29, 30 and 32 – 36 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

35. Claims 23 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Servan and Horn as applied to claims 21 and 29 above, and in further view of Berg et al. (6674713) (hereinafter Berg).

36. As per claim 23, as closely interpreted by the Examiner, Servan and Horn do not specifically teach the byte stream is a null byte stream. Berg teaches the byte stream is a null byte stream, (e.g., col. 22, lines 25 – 44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Berg with the combine system of Horn and Servan because

37. Claim 31 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Response to Arguments

Art Unit: 2143

38. Applicant's arguments filed 01/03/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

39. In the Remarks, Applicant argues in substance that Servan-Schreiber does not teach a method for detecting a continued presence of a web client.

40. As to part 1, the Examiner would like to draw the Applicant's attention to the above rejection in regards to the independent claim language. Servan-Schreiber does teach a type of method for detecting a continued presence of a web client, but Horn is utilized to teach the more specific teachings of the claim language recited above.

41. In the Remarks, Applicant argues in substance that Servan-Schreiber is further distinguished from the Applicant's claims 21 and 29, as Servan-Schreiber does not teach receiving error messages in response to the transmission of the byte streams. Horn is directed to a communications network that provides backup or redundancy capability through multiple network connections for ensuring system reliability. Horn is not even remotely related to the claimed features recited in Applicants' claims 21 and 29. Thus, Horn does not cure the deficiencies of Servan-Schreiber.

42. As to part 2, Applicant is asked to draw their attention to the rejection regarding the independent claims. In which, one can see that Servan-Schreiber is not utilized to teach receiving error messages in response to the transmission of the byte streams. Furthermore, if Applicant were to view the cited art above one can see that Horn does in fact teach the sections of the claimed invention as recited above. Even though Horn does have other teachings in their art,

Art Unit: 2143

Horn's other teachings read on the Applicant's claim language as stated above. Furthermore, not only is the motivation to combine the two systems well known in the art, it would also be advantageous to combine the prior art because if a connection is not in use for an extended time or "dead" then the system would know not to send information to the client via that connection and would send said information through another connection therefore keeping a continuous connection between two nodes in a network and also having the ability to not have to start a new connection after being completely disconnected, (e.g., Horn, col. 10).

43. Applicant is also reminded, when reviewing a reference the applicants should remember that not only the specific teachings of a reference but also reasonable inferences which the artisan would have logically drawn therefrom may be properly evaluated in formulating a rejection. In re Preda, 401 F. 2d 825, 159 USPQ 342 (CCPA 1968) and In re Shepard, 319 F. 2d 194, 138 USPQ 148 (CCPA 1963). Skill in the art is presumed. In re Sovish, 769 F. 2d 738, 226 USPQ 771 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Furthermore, artisans must be presumed to know something about the art apart from what the references disclose. In re Jacoby, 309 F. 2d 513, 135 USPQ 317 (CCPA 1962). The conclusion of obviousness may be made from common knowledge and common sense of a person of ordinary skill in the art without any specific hint or suggestion in a particular reference. In re Bozek, 416 F.2d 1385, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969). Every reference relies to some extent on knowledge of persons skilled in the art to complement that which is disclosed therein. In re Bode, 550 F. 2d 656, 193 USPQ 12 (CCPA 1977).

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2143

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. England whose telephone number is 571-272-3912.


The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David E. England
Examiner
Art Unit 2143

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